

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FACT SHEET

Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services

February, 2002

This fact sheet contains information about the impact of alcohol and other drug use in the Eighth Essex Representative District. Admission data were reported to the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) Substance Abuse Management Information System in FY 2001.

Residents of Eighth Essex Representative District

Treatment Admissions:

In FY 2001, there were 120,687 admissions to licensed substance abuse treatment services in all of Massachusetts. Of these, 2.1% (2,509) reside in the Eighth Essex Representative District. Due to budget cuts in FY 2002, BSAS estimates that 19% (477) of Eighth Essex Representative District residents will not be able to access treatment services. **Please note that these statistics represent only individual admissions, and represent a figure lower than the actual number of constituents in need of treatment services.**

- In FY 2001, 65.4% of admissions from the Eighth Essex Representative District were male and 34.6% were female.
- Over 57.1% of admissions were between the ages of 21-39.
- 70.9% of admissions were white non-Latino, 10.6% were black non-Latino, 13.0% were Latino, 1.6% were Asian, and 3.9% were other racial categories.
- 65.3% of those admitted to treatment were never married, 13.2% were married, and 13.8% reported not to be married now.
- 36.8% of admissions had less than high school education, 44.6% completed high school, and 18.7% had more than high school education.
- 28.7% of those admitted to treatment were employed.
- 13.7% of those admitted were homeless.
- 14.4% of admissions had prior mental health treatment.

Substances Used in Past Year:

Upon entering treatment, each client is asked to report ALL substances used in the past year (12 months) prior to admission. Admissions frequently report using more than one substance within the year. The use of more than one psychoactive substance, such as alcohol and marijuana, is referred to as 'polydrug' or 'polysubstance' use. For example, individuals who use cocaine, crack and heroin also may report the use of either alcohol and/or marijuana.

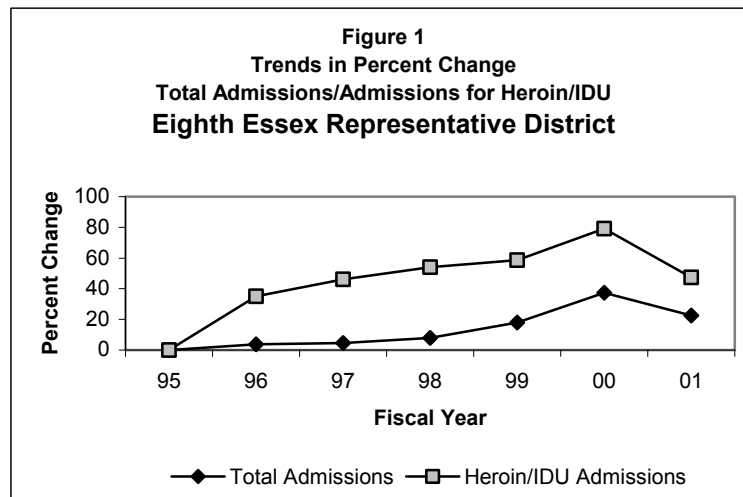
- Table 1 shows ALL substances which clients reported using in the year prior to admission, including the prevalence of injection drug use (IDU) in the Eighth Essex Representative District. Injection drug users (or IDU's) are individuals who use a needle to ingest cocaine, crack, heroin or another drug to get high.

Table 1 Annual Admissions by Substance Used FY 1995 – FY 2001							
Eighth Essex Representative District							
	Total	Alcohol	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack	Heroin	IDU
FY '95	2,046	1,497	535	858	713	686	385
FY '96	2,123	1,519	606	838	701	871	576
FY '97	2,140	1,548	602	705	506	917	649
FY '98	2,209	1,528	611	659	384	992	658
FY '99	2,412	1,742	713	728	387	990	710
FY '00	2,812	2,036	854	780	389	1,100	819
FY '01	2,509	1,766	713	589	258	945	634

- Since FY 1995, residents of Eighth Essex Representative District reported an increase in alcohol, marijuana and heroin use.
- Between FY 1995 and FY 2001, admissions reporting alcohol use increased by 17%, marijuana by 33%, and heroin use by 37%, while cocaine and crack use decreased by 31% and 63%, respectively.

Heroin and Injection Drug Use:

Figure 1 below shows the proportional increases in all admissions in the Eighth Essex Representative District and the proportional increase in admissions reporting heroin and injection drug use, a factor driving increases in HIV¹.



- Total treatment admission for all modalities rose 23% between FY 1995 and FY 2001. During the same period, admissions for heroin and injection drug use treatment increased by 47%.

Primary Substance of Use:

At admission clients also identify a “primary drug” of use which is the substance currently causing them the most problems.

- Table 2 compares the proportional distribution of primary drugs in Massachusetts with that for the Eighth Essex Representative District.

	Alcohol	Heroin	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack
District	41.4%	33.4%	10.3%	4.9%	2.8%
State	46.5%	35.9%	6.5%	3.9%	3.4%

- While alcohol, heroin and crack as a primary drug of use in your Representative District was lower than the State average, marijuana and cocaine was higher within your District.

¹ The Schneider Institute for Health Policy, Brandeis University, 2000